

devise for obtaining the kind of scientific information that I have stated.

Now, every scientist that I have talked to since this occurred -- I re-called some of them and asked them -- every one of them has spoken in most congratulatory terms about the capabilities of the Russian scientists in putting this in the air. They expressed themselves as pleased rather than chagrined, because at least the Soviets have proved the first part of it, that this thing will successfully orbit. But there are a lot of other things in the scientific inquiry that are not yet answered, and which we are pushing ahead to answer. Now that is the story on the satellite. It is supplemented by a statement that we prepared this morning that has some of the basic facts to include the sequence of events.

As to their firing of an intercontinental missile, we have not been told anything about the details of that firing.

They have proved again and, indeed, this launching of the satellite proves, that they can hurl an object a considerable distance.

They also said, as I recall that announcement, that it landed in the target area, which could be anywhere, because you can make a target area the size you please, and they also said it was a successful re-entry into the -- to the atmosphere, and landing at or near the target.

Now, that is a great accomplishment, if done. I have talked to you in the past about our own development in this regard, as far as security considerations permit, and I can say this:

It, the ICBM, the IRBM, we call them, we are still going ahead on those projects on top priority within the government, but incidentally a priority which was never accorded to the satellite program. The satellite program, having an entirely different purpose, even the scientists did not even think of it as a defense -- or security instrument, and the only way that the Defense Department is in it at all is because one of them, the Navy, was called upon as the agency to have the sites and the mechanisms for putting it in the air.

Q. Charles S. von Fremd, C.B.S. News. Mr. President, Khrushchev claims we are now entering a period when conventional planes, bombers, and fighters, will be confined to museums because they are outmoded by the missiles which Russia claims she has now perfected; and Khrushchev's remarks would seem to indicate he wants us to believe that our Strategic Air Command is now outmoded. Do you think that SAC is outmoded?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I believe it would be dangerous to